



SAY WHAT

GO FISH?

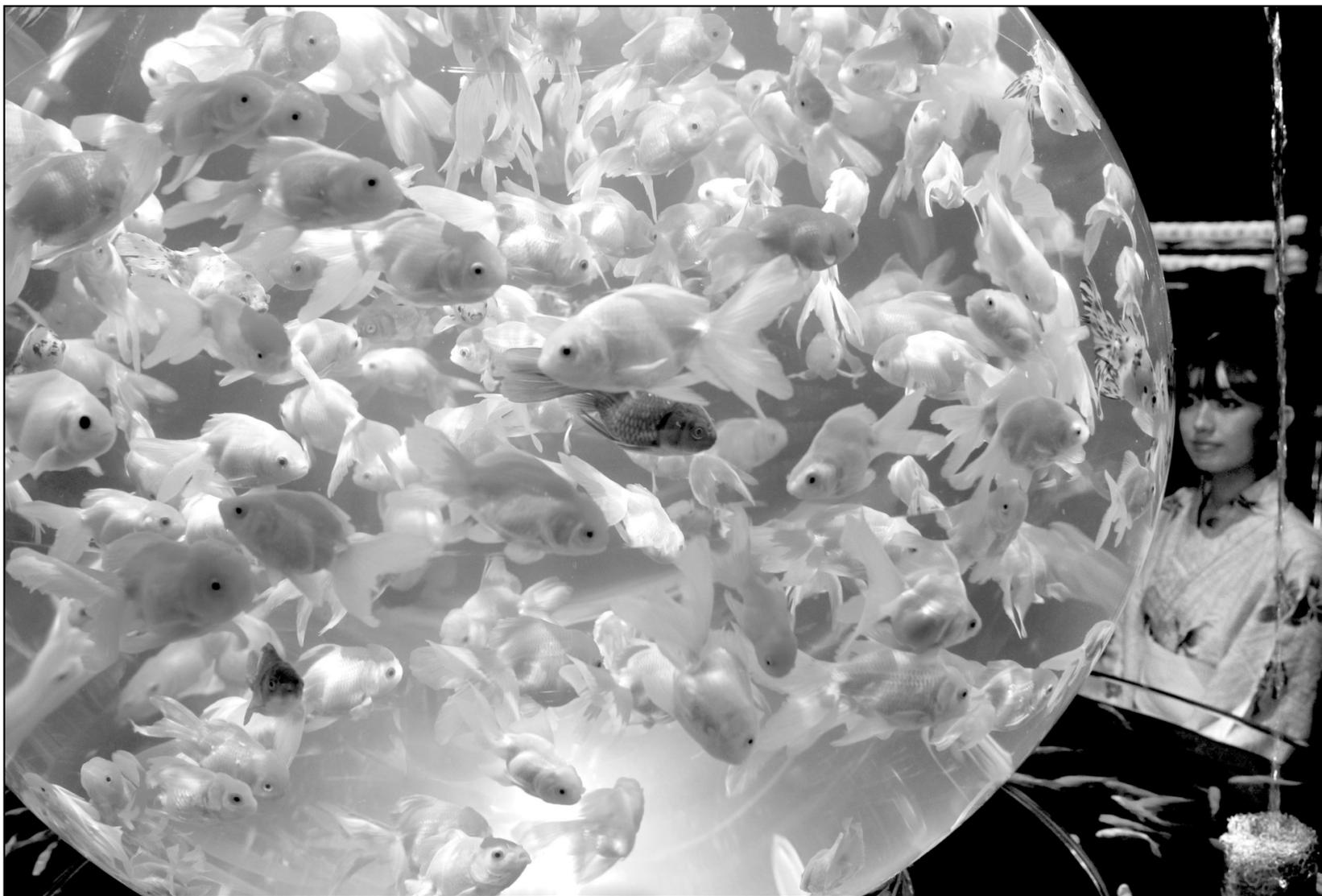
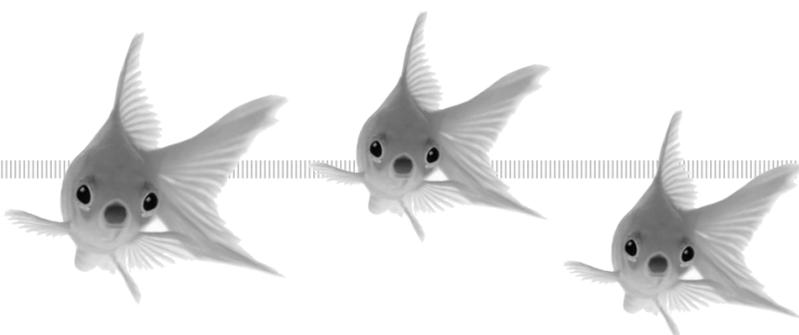


Photo by Koji Sasahara of The Associated Press
Goldfish swim in a spherical water tank in an art aquarium exhibition in Tokyo.

NUKE PLANT SECURITY: GONE FISSION

BY SUZIE GILBERT
SHALEREPORTER.COM

An unidentified terrorist left two live warthogs tethered to a Barcalounger in an Ohio nuclear power plant recently, in a message widely speculated to mean “corporate” (wart) “greed” (hog).

Slight exaggeration.

In reality, an unidentified transgressor left two live goldfish swimming in a lemonade pitcher in a steam tunnel in an Ohio nuclear power plant last week, in a message widely speculated to mean “neener” (gold) “neener” (fish).

Clearly, a message was being sent. But by whom?

We can rule out organized crime, since no one is missing and the mafia’s he-sleeps-with-the-fishes information packets traditionally include carp or haddock, not goldfish.

We can rule out PETA, since the water was radioactive and the fish eventually died. Some suspect it was a comeback stunt pulled by the Techno band Radioactive Goldfish (best known for their 1991 club hit “L.S.D. Is The Bomb,” and I’m not making this up), but no band member has come forward.

This must mean ... it was an inside job. “We know everybody who had access to the tunnel,” said Jennifer Young, a spokeswoman for FirstEnergy, the Ohio-based company still struggling to provide an explanation for the Perry Nuclear Power Plant incident. “Also ... we had video cameras trained on that area as a security measure.”

But videotapes have not given up the perp. These were two goldfish, evidently smuggled through security checks in a small water-filled plastic bag.

It’s not like they were swans, mountain goats, largemouth bass or any number of other species whose presence beneath someone’s uniform would be readily apparent.

Still, it’s a disturbing event for a company that, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, was plagued by “human performance issues” for years before it was cited in 2011 for sending workers to retrieve a radiation monitor stuck in the reactor’s core. These instructions left the four workers unharmed but “within two seconds to two minutes of a radiation overdose,” depending on how close they were

to the monitor. It’s a disturbing event for a company that the Union of Concerned Scientists said in their March report had confessed to a security breach the previous year, was cited, but then — a year later — had done nothing about it. Earlier this month, the NRC said it was completing a series of 25 separate inspections of Perry due to violations that have put workers at risk. (According to the NRC, there are no federal regulations prohibiting bringing goldfish into a nuclear power plant. But what about piranha?)

On Earth Day of this year, the award for the corporation with the worst environmental record in Ohio (the “Worst Energy Award”) was given to FirstEnergy, noting its website’s self-congratulatory environmental grandstanding while its lobbyists quietly but tirelessly work behind the scenes to repeal the state’s energy efficiency law.

What would it be like to be employed by a company like this?

Even before the fish showed up, there was a reputed “morale problem” at Perry. Maybe the company doesn’t have to go all Silicon Valley with gyms, day care, transportation, flexible hours, etc. But if there’s one industry in America you’d think would want to keep its workers at least semi-happy, it’s the one capable of nuking us into oblivion.

“This is not behavior that’s acceptable,” says Perry spokesman Jennifer Young.

That’s for sure.

Suzie Gilbert, a writer for Shalereporter.com, is a state and federally licensed wild bird rehabilitator, and is the founder of Flyaway Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of injured and orphaned wild birds.



It has definitely been a difficult week for goldfish. Below, Twitter sends their sympathy to our fishy friends:

@MeaghanSmith
I just had the best dream! I was ‘accidentally’ fed radioactive fish food by my Husband/chef, Mingo. And I morphed into Goldfish Girl.

@JBertosa
FirstEnergy investigating alleged prank at Perry Nuclear Power Plant. Yes, it involved goldfish in radioactive water.

@ChrisBall99
Did Homer Simpson sneak into Perry nuclear power plant? D’oh! Two radioactive goldfish are found in lemonade pitcher.

@wtwh_renewables
Radioactive goldfish -- one thing you don’t need to worry about with #renewable energy

@SunnyFishTank
Radioactive goldfish found at nuke plant, but don’t go blaming Homer.

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